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March 12, 2004

Caroline Bulger, Hearing Officer
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Flr
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Bulger,

I am writing to you with respect to the 2003 Distribution System Planning Report for the NSTAR Electric distribution system. The NSTAR Electric system is composed of Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric, Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric and Cambridge Electric Light Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric. Pursuant to the Department's directives, the annually filed Distribution System Planning Report is designed to provide the following information: (1) a 10-year peak demand load forecast; (2) planning criteria and guidelines for the distribution system planning process; (3) an operating study showing power flows and voltages for normal and emergency conditions; and (4) a listing and prioritization of significant infrastructure improvement projects.

In NSTAR Electric, D.T.E. 01-65 (2002), the Department established an annual filing date of January 1 of each year. In December 2003, the Department notified the Company of certain additional requirements to be included in the annual report for 2003. The Company requires additional time to incorporate those changes and to develop the report to meet the Department's requirements for filing. Therefore, please be advised that the Company plans on filing the 2003 Distribution System Planning Report no later than May 1, 2004.

I appreciate your efforts relating to this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Department has any concerns with this schedule or requires additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Reed". To the right of the signature is a small, handwritten circled "JRN".

Mark L. Reed
Director Public Affairs

cc: Ronald LeComte, Director, Electric Power Division
Sashi Parekh, Electric Power Division